

Claims

1. Method for verifying the availability of a server, in which  
- an availability request is transmitted by a client to a  
5 server,  
- a response to said availability request is transmitted by the  
server to the client by means of a confirmation message if the  
server is available,  
characterized in that the client transmits a message regarding  
10 the availability of the server to other clients who then  
prevent the transmission of an availability request to the  
server at least for a predefinable period of time.
2. Method according to claim 1,  
15 characterized in that data is transmitted between the server  
and the clients by means of connectionless switching control.
3. Method according to one of the claims 1 or 2,  
characterized in that the message regarding the availability of  
20 the server is transmitted to the predefinable other clients  
using multicast.
4. Method according to one of the claims 1 to 3,  
characterized in that the client informs only predefinable  
25 other clients within the same subnetwork about the availability  
of the server.
5. Method according to one of the claims 1 to 4,  
characterized in that the client executes availability requests  
30 at times predefinable by a timer control.
6. Method according to claim 5,

characterized in that a timer of a time control, which control is assigned to a predefinable other client and instigates availability requests, is reset to a predefinable value when a message regarding the availability of the server is received.

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7. Control program that can be loaded into a random access memory of a client and has at least one code section, on the implementation of which control program

- an availability request is transmitted by the client to a  
10 server,
- a receipt of a confirmation message responding to the availability request if the server is available is monitored,
- a message regarding the availability of the server is transmitted to other clients,
- 15 - a receipt of a message of a predefinable other client regarding the availability of the server is monitored and the transmission of an availability request to the server is prevented at least for a predefinable period of time when such a message is received,
- 20 if the control program in the client runs out.

8. Client for a communications network providing connectionless services with

- a device for transmitting an availability request to a  
25 server,
- a device for monitoring the receipt of a confirmation message responding to the availability request if the server is available,
- a device for transmitting a message regarding the  
30 availability of the server to other clients,
- a device for monitoring the receipt of a message of a predefinable other client regarding the availability of the server and for preventing the transmission of an availability

request to the server at least for a predefinable period of time when such a message is received.